

INTERESTING HISTORY OF MOTHER OF OUR TOWNSMAN, COLBY THOMAS

The following article appeared in the Dallas News several days ago, and will be interesting to the many friends of our townsman, Colby Thomas. Mr. Thomas has been a live wire in the development of this city, and was active indeed in promoting enterprises that were for the development of the country and up-building of Lubbock, till his health forced him to retire from active work, but his influence is still a great help in the advancement of the city, and the interesting career of his mother will be read with interest by Avalanche readers, and for that reason we have taken the liberty to reproduce the article:

Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Thomas, widow of James Thomas, pioneer merchant and business man of Dallas, celebrated the ninety-third anniversary of her birth at her home, McKinney avenue and Pearl street, on June 21. Mrs. Thomas came to Texas from Tennessee in 1851, settling near Plano, and coming to Dallas in December, 1869, has continuously resided here ever since, occupying the same homestead.

Mrs. Thomas, whose maiden name was Elizabeth Jane Routh, was born near Knoxville, Tennessee, June 21, 1828, being the youngest of ten children. Her grandfather was killed by Indians in Tennessee. Her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Mashman, was a cousin of George M. Dallas, for whom the city of Dallas was named. She was married to Mr. Thomas in 1850, and the following year she came to Texas with her brother, Jacob Routh, and her mother, settling at Plano. The next year Mr. Thomas came to Texas to take her back to Tennessee,

but he was so well pleased with the country that he concluded to locate in this state.

Mr. Thomas purchased land near Richardson and lived on it until 1869, when he came to Dallas and engaged in the mercantile business with J. M. Patterson as his partner. For a homestead he bought forty acres lying north of Pearl street, bounded on the west by McKinney avenue and on the south by the branch, and built his home on the southeast corner of McKinney avenue and Pearl street. The tract was afterwards subdivided into town lots and was designated the Thomas addition. Mrs. Thomas donated the lands for the streets. The principal street, Thomas avenue, was named for Mr. Thomas, the chief cross street was named for Mrs. Thomas' family, Routh street (pronounced Rowth), and Colby street for her son, Colby.

A Public-Spirited Citizen.
For several years Mr. Thomas was a member of the leading general mercantile firms in the city, and he took an active interest in and gave financial support to all public enterprises, notably to the Trinity River bridge, in which he was a large stockholder. He died in 1875.

Mrs. Thomas is of English descent on her mother's side. Her family settled in Tennessee when that state was a wilderness roamed by Indians. She still has a vivid recollection of the scenes of her childhood. The house in which she was born and which she visited a few years ago, is still standing. She still keeps a little chair which was presented to her when she was a small child. The incidents of the wagon journey from Tennessee to Texas, occupying six weeks, are fresh in her memory. She knew personally, practically all the early settlers in Dallas and Dallas County.

Of the party who came to Texas with Mrs. Thomas, she and Mrs. Emma Miller, of Renner, Dallas county, are the only survivors. For a number of years Mrs. Thomas and her daughter, Miss Mollie, have been the only occupants of the old homestead, and the friends of the family have called regularly on the recurrence of the anniversary of Mrs. Thomas' birthday to congratulate her. No invitations are sent out, but it is known that friends will call, for they call every day.

Oldest Baptist in City.
Mrs. Thomas enjoyed excellent health up to two years ago, when an attack of influenza seriously impaired her strength physically, although her mind is as vigorous as it ever was. She is the oldest member of the Baptist church in the city and she still takes a lively interest in all church work, contributing liberally to every good cause. Her sons, Oliver and Colby Thomas, were the founders of the real estate firm of Thomas Bros. and they built the Thomas building. Oliver died several years ago. Colby resides at Lubbock. Colby and Miss Mollie Thomas are the only surviving children. Mrs. Thomas has lived to a greater age than any member of her family so far as she knows, although her grand-mother was in her ninety-first year when she died.

Mrs. Thomas was born during the administration of John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States; twenty-five years after the purchase of Louisiana; thirteen years after the first boat propelled by steam made its way up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers from New Orleans to Pittsburg, thereby demonstrating that steamboats could run upstream as well as down, and one year after the first train of cars was drawn over a railroad by a locomotive in the United States, the test being made on a narrow-gauge road between Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina.

At that time, which was before gold had been dreamed of in California, all that part of the United States west of the Mississippi River, as well as much of that east, was as complete a wilderness as it had been in the time of the mound builders, and the Indians roamed as far east as the frontier of Indiana. The last census before her birth, taken in 1820, gave the population of the United States at 9,600,000.

Industries Were Undeveloped.
The industries of the people were still carried on as they had been in the Middle Ages. The scythe and the cradle and even the reaper-hook were

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It is built for service—the kind that brings glad hours of freedom from worry and the annoyance of complicated machinery.

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Aladdin ware is made for strength as well as for beauty and it lasts so well that it really is cheap.

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"Building Homes Now"

When depression is at its lowest, when labor is most plentiful and when your needs are greatest—that's the ideal time for building a home.

This company is qualified to help you with your building problems. Our stock is complete and our service is always at your service.

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Isn't This What You Want?

If you want the very choicest fruits and vegetables, the very highest grade of flour; if you want the most popular brands of staple groceries; if you want choice cuts of meats and prompt service, phone

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You can buy and get delivered the entire bill.

the tools for harvesting grain and hay. The farmers threshed their grain by trampling it with horses or beating it with the flail and water and wind were the sources of power for running grist and saw mills. Every family had spinning wheels, and loom and the flax, cotton and wool were spun and woven at home. Each community had its tanyard and the boots and shoes were laboriously made by hand. Each family and each settlement were a rounded world within itself as far as sustenance was concerned. At night the houses were lighted with tallow candles, for even kerosene was unknown as an illuminant. Men hunted Indians with flint lock rifles and the expert backwoods marksmen could not conceive of anything more perfect in the way of a firearm.

A man who should have spoken seriously of the possibility of modern farm machinery would have been regarded as mentally unbalanced, and if he had, in addition, said something about electricity and its applications in telegraphy, the telephone, lighting and motive power, and wandered to the automobile, airplane and biotype and the movies, jury of his best friends and neighbors would probably out of hand have adjudged him insane.

Few individuals in any age of the world have witnessed more changes in the conditions and life of the people than Mrs. Thomas.—Dallas News.

To Stop a Cough Quick

take HAYES' HEALING HONEY, a cough medicine which stops the cough by healing the inflamed and irritated tissues.

A box of GROVES' O-PEN-TRATE SALVE for Chest Colds, Head Colds and Croup is enclosed with every bottle of HAYES' HEALING HONEY. The salve should be rubbed on the chest and throat of children suffering from a Cold or Croup.

The healing effect of Hayes' Healing Honey inside the throat combined with the healing effect of Groves' O-Pen-Trate Salve through the pores of the skin soon stops a cough.

Just ask your druggist for HAYES' HEALING HONEY.

R. E. Sanford, of Abilene, was a guest at a local hotel Friday of last week.

J. E. Ford, of Poler, Texas, was in Lubbock the latter part of last week, visiting and transacting business matters.

WHAT MAKES GOOD MILK?

Unless you take precautionary methods of caring for milk, you won't have good milk. Milk is probably the easiest contaminated food on the market, yet it is also one of the healthiest and most nourishing.

Equipment and everlasting diligence give us reason for stating that ours is the sweet, pure and wholesome milk.

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PEOPLE MUST NOT JAY-WALK, OR PAY FINE

The city has recently erected signs on every corner in the business section of town instructing people not to jay-walk. If this law is not obeyed, a fine of five dollars will be the penalty. This is no doubt a good move the city has taken, as on many occasions we have noticed women with several small children crossing the street in dangerous places and cutting the corners in various ways, to make it very inconvenient for car drivers, and not only does it cause inconvenience to the car drivers but it is very dangerous to cross a street in a way that you must watch four ways for traffic. We feel sure the people of Lubbock will stand by this law and obey it in every

respect, for its purpose is for the safety of people, and not merely to show authority, as some may remark.

If you have any thing to sell or wish to trade, see J. E. Alexander, Lowrey Building, Room 7, or business Phone 288, residence 355.

A. A. Beely, of Floydada, was a visitor to Lubbock the latter part of last week.

W. D. Arnett, of the Spade ranch, was in Lubbock Friday of last week, transacting business matters.

Mrs. J. W. Welch, of this city, returned home from a trip to Chisholm, the latter part of last week.